

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Withdrawn – currently amended) A method for producing the polypeptide of ~~claim 21~~ claim 31, the method comprising:

providing a host cell transformed with a DNA encoding the polypeptide;  
culturing the host cell, and  
collecting the polypeptide from the host cell or a culture supernatant thereof.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Withdrawn – currently amended) A method for identifying a potential ligand for the polypeptide of ~~claim 21~~ claim 31, the method comprising:

(a) contacting a candidate compound with the polypeptide or a cell expressing the polypeptide; and

(b) determining whether the candidate compound binds to the polypeptide or cell, wherein binding to the polypeptide or cell is an indication that the candidate compound is a potential ligand for the polypeptide.

9. (Withdrawn – currently amended) A method for identifying a potential agonist for the polypeptide of ~~claim 21~~ claim 31, wherein the method comprises:

(a) contacting a candidate compound with a cell expressing the polypeptide; and

(b) determining whether the candidate compound induces the polypeptide to generate an ITIM signal activity, wherein the activity is an indication that the candidate compound is a potential agonist for the polypeptide.

10. (Withdrawn – currently amended) A method for identifying a potential antagonist for the polypeptide of ~~claim 24~~ claim 31, wherein the method comprises:

(a) contacting a candidate compound with a cell expressing the polypeptide; and  
(b) determining whether an ITIM signal activity is reduced as compared with the activity in the absence of the candidate compound, wherein a reduction in activity is an indication that the candidate compound is a potential antagonist for the polypeptide.

11-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously presented) An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 4, and 6.

32. (Withdrawn) The polypeptide of claim 31, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

33. (Withdrawn) The polypeptide of claim 31, wherein the polypeptide consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

34. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 31, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

35. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 31, wherein the polypeptide consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

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36. (Withdrawn) The polypeptide of claim 31, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6.

37. (Withdrawn) The polypeptide of claim 31, wherein the polypeptide consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6.

38-48. (Canceled)